

REMARKS**Claim Amendments**

Claims 1 and 24 have been amended to define that the purifying material comprises “3-20% by weight” of at least one metal oxide from the lanthanide series. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example, at page 7, lines 22-28.

Claim 20 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20, 21 and 25 are allowable.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-5, 7-19 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 2001/0012502 to Okumura *et al.*

Claims 1 and 24, as amended, are directed to a method for removal of contaminants from a stream of a hydride gas comprising contacting the hydride gas with a material comprising 3-20% by weight of at least one metal oxide from the lanthanide series. As stated by the Examiner regarding the allowability of Claims 20 and 21 (see Office Action, pages 2-3),

Applicant's claims 20 and 21 have not been rejected under either 35USC 102 or 35USC 103 because claim 20 is limited to composition comprising 3 to 20 % by weight of a metal oxide from the lanthanide series, and this weight percentage is not taught or suggested in Okumura *et al.*

Therefore, as Claims 1 and 24 have been amended to define that the purifier material comprises 3-20% by weight of at least one metal oxide from the lanthanide series, these claims as well as dependent claims of Claim 1 are novel in view of Okumura *et al.* Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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